Delays in execution of MPLADS

619. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that works allotted by Members of Parliament under the MPLADS for execution sometimes were bogged down by inordinate delay due to procedural lapses; and

(b) whether in view of this Government would issue fresh instructions to executing agencies engaged in Rural Water Supply Schemes, Panchayati Raj Department, Public Works Department, Education Department, Public Health Department etc., to ensure timely implementation of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Some complaints from the Members of Parliament have been received regarding slow pace of implementation of MPLADS work.

(b) The Government has taken a number of steps to expedite the pace of progress under the Scheme. District Heads have been advised to process and sanction works recommended by Members of Parliament to the extent of their yearly entitlement of funds and to stipulate time limit in the work order for the implementing agencies to complete the given work in a specific time frame, depending upon the nature of the work. All the state Governments have been advised to issue instructions to all District Heads to quickly process the works recommended by Members of Parliament and accord administrative and financial sanction within 45 days and to scrupulously follow the monitoring provisions by all concerned. Meetings are being held by Minister of state (Statistics and Programme Implementation) in States to review the progress of works under MPLADS. In the past such Review meetings were held in Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Goa and Maharashtra.

Enhancement in MPLADS Fund

620 SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government arc considering to increase the MPLADS fund for each MP from two crores to five crores as the fund for MLAs of Delhi and Orissa have been increased to two crores and one crore, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIARUN SHOURIE): No Sir. Payment of interest alone on past debts eats up 70 per cent of the total tax revenue of the Central Government. Payment of interest plus repayment of past debt already exceeds the total tax revenue of the Central Government. In this background, increase of MPLADS funds is not feasible.